



Milwaukee County Supervisor - District 15

Eddie Cullen

Milwaukee County Courthouse
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www.milwaukee.gov/cullen



**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**

FALL 2021

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- **Personnel Committee, Chairperson**
- **Intergovernmental Relations, Member**

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Supervisor Eddie Cullen, Dist. 15 ...278-4263
County Board of Supervisors.....278-4222
County Executive.....278-4211
Department on Aging.....289-6874
Behavioral Health Division.....257-6995
Child Support Enforcement.....278-5160
Clerk of Circuit Court.....278-5362
County Clerk.....278-4067
County Treasurer.....278-4033
Disabilities Services Division.....289-6660
Election Commission.....278-4060
Family Care.....287-7600
Health and Human Services.....289-6817
Mental Health Complex.....257-6995
Mitchell International Airport.....747-5300
Office of Persons with Disabilities.....278-3932
Parks.....257-PARK
Sheriff.....278-4766
Transit System.....344-6711
UW-Extension.....290-2400
Veterans Services.....278-4054
Zoo.....771-3040



4th of July Festivities

Supervisor Cullen and his son celebrate fourth of July at Enderis Park.

Dear Friend,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor. In this newsletter I will bring you up to date on some of the issues I have been working on to make Milwaukee County a better place to live, work and raise a family.

As a member of the Finance Committee, I had the opportunity to help shape Milwaukee County's budget. I am proud to say that our budget has kept property tax rates at or below the rate of inflation. My top priorities have been protecting our parks, keeping our community safe and ensuring that the Milwaukee County Transit System will always be a viable option for those who need transportation.

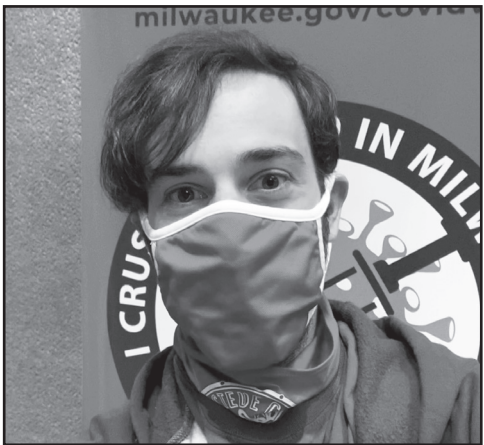
Currently I am the Chairman of the Personnel Committee. In that role I worked to make sure that our skilled laborers such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters were paid competitive wages. This effort helped us recruit and keep talent.

Inside you will find information on issues such as our efforts to combat climate change, raise the minimum wage, streamline the foreclosure process to protect taxpayers and fight the unnecessary expansion of I-94 in Milwaukee County.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with your comments, questions, or concerns about Milwaukee County Government.

Sincerely,

Eddie Cullen
County Supervisor, 15th District



Supervisor Cullen after getting his COVID vaccine shot.

**DRIVE-THRU
COVID-19
TESTING**
FREE AT NO COST TO YOU

Free COVID-19 testing for anyone 12-months and older, regardless of symptoms. Drive-thru or walk-up.

Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Road
Drive-thru garage – Enter at Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St.

Southside Health Center, 1639 S. 23rd St.
Drive-thru heated tent in North parking lot - Enter on 24th St.

**Milwaukee Community Testing Site,
2401 W. St. Paul Ave.** Drive-thru garage

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE

milwaukee.gov/covidtesting
#MKECares #StaySafeMKE

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Get up-to-date information on FREE
Milwaukee County Attractions at:



county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

COVID-19, Structural Deficit Make for Difficult 2022 County Budget

Setting and adopting a balanced budget is the most important task that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors take on each year. Milwaukee County's budget continues to be further complicated by an ongoing structural deficit caused by state revenue caps and the increased cost of state mandated services. On average, county revenues grow by only 1% per year while expenses are expected to increase by 2.4%, the rate of inflation.

Rising to the challenge of adopting a balanced budget each year, Milwaukee County has closed budget gaps of approximately \$300 million over the past decade. The county has done this by reducing its real estate footprint by 1.6 million square feet, reducing staff by 1,400 employees, and deferring \$35 million in maintenance, among other measures. This has unfortunately led to reductions in services countywide, including in our parks, busses, and public safety functions.

Milwaukee County will receive a total of \$183 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA will provide the county with a needed boost in funds to help recover from the pandemic, but the county's actual revenue loss is estimated to be nearly double the amount received from ARPA.

Milwaukee County continues to advocate for additional revenue options to fund local priorities. Governor Tony Evers included a proposal in his 2021-2023 state budget that would allow counties to raise their sales tax by .5% percent if approved by voters through a referendum process, but this proposal was not included in the adopted state budget.

You can find out how to help solve Milwaukee County's mounting budget issues by visiting moveforwardmke.com.

Legislative Updates

- **21-758** - Supervisor Cullen sponsored a resolution disputing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Claims and reaffirming Milwaukee County's Opposition to further expansion of Interstate 94 (I-94).
- **21-556** - Supervisor Cullen authored a resolution to address the shortage of lifeguards and parks workers in Milwaukee County. The legislation increases pay for those employees and additionally offers incentives for completing trainings, tenure, and referring staff to Milwaukee County.
- **County Redistricting Process** – Supervisor Cullen proudly voted to pass a resolution creating the Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) for Milwaukee County. The committee is tasked with creating a map that is free from political influences.
- **21-318** - Supervisor Cullen's Personnel Committee raised wages for trades positions to a rate that is competitive with both the private and public sector. This package was unanimously adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.



Supervisor Cullen and his family celebrating the Bucks historic win.



Supervisor Cullen's son Luca had his first visit to the courthouse.

Milwaukee County Works to Combat Climate Change

As the father of a young son, I, like you, am concerned about the future of our planet. I am proud that the County Board unanimously passed a resolution I authored to cut our carbon emissions and use more eco-friendly products.

Other efforts we have undertaken include beginning a pilot program for electric busses to reduce our use of fossil fuel and increase recycling efforts in Milwaukee County Parks.



Milwaukee County and Green Bay Packers Collaborate to Improve Center Street Park

You may have seen and had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful new play structure at Center Street Park. Thanks to a generous donation from the Packers, we were able to update the park without having to pay anything for the equipment.

I joined Packer players and County Parks staff on a rainy day to help assemble the beautiful new equipment. I was especially pleased that neighborhood families were able to help select the swings, slides, and other equipment they wanted for the playground.



Supervisor Cullen and Parks Director Guy Smith pictured in front of the newly built playground at Center Street Park. Supervisor Cullen helped construct the playground alongside Milwaukee County Park Workers, and Green Bay Packer players in a single day with no cost to the County for the equipment.

Expansion of I-94 In Milwaukee County

As you probably know, the State of Wisconsin wants to create more lanes on I-94 from 16th Street to 70th Street at an estimated cost of \$1 billion. Along with Alderman Michael Murphy and State Representative Daniel Riemer, I have fought to stop this unnecessary expansion of the freeway through Story Hill, one of Milwaukee's finest neighborhoods.

I have advocated that this money be spent on the repair of I-94, our roads and improvements to our public transportation system. Instead of disrupting another beautiful Milwaukee neighborhood, we should be rebuilding and fixing our infrastructure.

Streamlining Milwaukee County Sheriff Foreclosure Auctions

I authored legislation to move the Sheriff's foreclosure auctions online. My office received complaints that during in person auctions problem landlords are quick to question and sometimes intimidate unfamiliar people. This leads to the same small group of individuals buying properties at rock bottom prices and often renting them out at high prices to some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I worked with representatives from the office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee City Attorney and Milwaukee County Treasurer in crafting policy that would move this process online. I hope that doing so will lead to a more open process that will serve all citizens and discourage intimidation of Milwaukeeans looking to become first time landlords.

Fighting for Middle Class Families

A resolution I sponsored eliminated pay grades below \$15 per hour for Milwaukee County employees. This effectively raised the minimum wage for a Milwaukee County employee to \$15 per hour.

Also, many of our skilled laborers wages had been frozen for years. Recently passed legislation will allow Milwaukee County to attract and keep a skilled labor force to maintain our infrastructure and Milwaukee County Parks.

The Fight for \$15



Supervisor Cullen marched in solidarity with workers at the Milwaukee County Airport for the Fight for \$15 initiative. He is pictured above demanding that the workers be bargained with in good faith.

Lifeguard Incentives



Supervisor Cullen was interviewed by CBS 58 to discuss his resolution (21-556) which raised pay for lifeguards and parks workers in Milwaukee County.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. **Simply dial 2-1-1.** If you want detailed information please go to: www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1.



15TH DISTRICT MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

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Milwaukee Bucks Celebration



Supervisor Cullen poses with Ernie Johnson and Charles Barkley from TNT at a block party in the Enderis Park neighborhood.

CLIC COUNTY LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Energy Assistance is Available

Through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, qualified Milwaukee County residents can receive a one-time annual payment* to make your heating and electric bills more affordable!



1. See if you qualify.

Go to **KeepWarmMKE.org** to check income guidelines and see if you qualify. 175,000 county residents will. You may also qualify for services like furnace repair, weatherization and crisis benefits.

2. Make an appointment or complete your application online.

- Apply October 1 - May 15.
- Visit **KeepWarmMKE.org** or
- Call **270-4MKE (4653)**. Dial 211 for after-hours help.

3. Due to COVID-19, all appointments are conducted by phone.

A team member will call you at your scheduled appointment time to process your application.

**Funding covers a portion of energy costs; it is not intended to pay your entire energy bill. How much funding you receive depends on several factors, including your income, size of your home or apartment, and energy costs. (In most cases, the annual Energy Assistance monetary benefit will be paid directly to your energy supplier.)*

On A Personal Note...

As many of you know, I was born, raised and attended school in Milwaukee. I am a proud graduate of Milwaukee German Immersion School, Milwaukee School of Languages and Rufus King High School. That educational foundation allowed me to also graduate from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.



Now, my wife, Kristin and I are raising our son in Milwaukee. We have had the pleasure of enjoying many Milwaukee County Parks, the Mitchell Park Domes, the Zoo and the Milwaukee Art Museum with him. Like you I want my family to enjoy the beautiful parks and safe streets of Milwaukee County. As your County Supervisor I will do my best to ensure that these attractions can be enjoyed by us and future generations of Milwaukeeans.